

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-11

L-03 H-03 ACDA-19 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 079616

R 051805Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7072

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: BURDENSARING

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 6956; (B) STATE 231268

1. SUMMARY: GOB FINMIN OFFICIAL (VAN YPERSELE) BELIEVES THAT MOST THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IS EUROPEAN ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF NEED TO ASSUME INCREASED SHARE OF BURDEN. HE WAS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT BELGIUM MIGHT HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE DISPROPORTINATE SHARE TOWARD MEETING  
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JACKSON-NUNN AMMENDMENT REQUIREMENT IN EVENT OF LARGER COUNTRY

SHORTFALLS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HANDED COPY OF AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S NOVEMBER 29 STATEMENT TO VAN YPERSELE, WHO FOLLOWS BURDENSARING DEVELOPMENTS IN GOB FINANCE MINISTRY. HE SEEMED NOT SHOCKED BY AMOUNTS ILLUSTRATIVELY SUGGESTED FOR BELGIUM, BUT HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER ASSUMPTION OF 100 PERCENT FRG OFFSET IS REALISTIC, AS WELL AS ABOUT CHANCES THAT UK AND FRANCE WILL ACCEPT ANYTHING LIKE AMOUNTS SUGGESTED FOR THEM. CONSEQUENTLY, HE FEARED THAT BELGIUM AND OTHER SMALLER COUNTRIES WILL BE CALLED UPON TO CONTRIBUTE CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN AMOUNTS LISTED FOR THEM IN U. S. BURDENSARING ILLUSTRATION. IN REPLY TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER JOBERT'S RECENT STATEMENT ON NEED TO MAINTAIN U. S. TROOP LEVELS IN EUROPE MIGHT INDICATE MORE FORTHCOMING FRENCH ATTITUDE, ON BURDENSARING VAN YPERSELE SAID THAT HIS GOB FONMIN CONTACTS DO SEE SUCH A SHIFT BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO MUCH GREATER COOPERATION ON NATO FINANCES.

3. VAN YPERSELE WAS PLEASED THAT SOME ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES HAD "FINALLY" BEEN SET FORTH ON BASIS OF WHICH EUROPEAN ALLIES COULD BEGIN SERIOUS CONSULTATIONS ON HOW TO APLIT UP BURDEN. HE HOPED THAT USG DID NOT EXPECT MORE THAN A GENERAL EUROPEAN COMMITMENT TO PICK UP INCREASED SHARE OF DEFENSE BURDEN AT NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS THIS MONTH. EUROPEAN NEGOTIATIONS ON BURDENSARING WILL INEVITABLY BE TIME-CONSUMING AND NO GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOB, WILL WISH TO GET OUT IN FRONT DURING PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE SUGGESTED AGAIN TO VAN YPERSELE THAT GOB PURCHASE OF U. S. AIRCRAFT FOR 104 FOLLOW-ON WOULD BE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING JACKSON-NUNN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REQUIREMENT AND WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO GOB IN BURDENSARING NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

4. COMMENT: VAN YPERSELE AT ONE POINT COMMENTED THAT U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IMPROVEMENT MIGHT WELL CHANGE PICTURE COMPLETELY IN NEXT YEAR OR SO. WE REPLIED THAT SUCH IMPROVEMENT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY TAKE PLACE IN MILITARY BALANCE AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT THAT LED TO JACKSON-NUNN WAS SLOW IN BUILDING UP AND WILL PROBABLY BE EQUALLY SLOW IN DISAPPEARING. VAN YPERSELE'S COMMENT AND HIS EMPHASIS ON TIME NEEDED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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INTRA-EUROPEAN BURDENSARING NEGOTIATIONS UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING PRESSURE ON FOR EARLY ACTION.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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